Jan 1847

Boston Mass. Jan 20th 1847

Dear Miss Estlin,

I am sure you will pardon the delay in replying to your valued letters, for you know by experience how much the time is occupied by Bazaar operations. I have the satisfaction of announcing the most successful of the occasion. You can have no conception unless you were on the spot, the éclat & encouragement given to the friends of the cause, or of the mortification & discomfiture felt by enemies. The pulpit & the latter you will see some few specimins of, in "the reign of oppression" in the Liberator. I had feared that we might fail having purchasers in numbers propor-

Here for many years there have been a few friends to our Liberty Bazaar this year it is to be held in Faneuil Hall & to occupy the whole of the Thursday with Tuesday & Wednesday

tionate to our sympathies: but happily I was mistaken. My fears were grounded on the knowledge I had of the state of our public mind here in Boston. The two great parties in politics were against us:— the Whigs, because we had sympathized, in ~~with~~ the movement which threatened to divide their ranks, & made of them a house in contention with itself, with the Movement party, or "young whigs" as they were called. These young whigs, though entitled, in the comparison, to our sympathy, because they were nearer right on the A.S. question which was the bone of contention, were unlike from us by our continual statements to them that the same reasons which made it

morally obligatory upon them
to act contrary to party policy,
made it obligatory to go much
further, even so far as to disunite
them from the constitution &
Government of the country. The
Democratic, or present administra-
tion party, are forced so thoroughly
by pro-slavery that we despaired of
help from any of their members.
While with the 3d party & with
most of the Sets we were in equally
bad repute. Our dissenting doctrines
undermine the basis of the first
mentioned, & our common plat-
form doctrine comes in collision
with the fundamental narrowness
of the last named. But my
fears proved groundless. The best
of all these bodies were in constant
attendance, & from two thirds to
three quarters of all the goods we
had for sale, were disposed of. This
philanthropic market differs a little

from that of ordinary commerce. The demand there creates the supply; while with us the supply makes the demand. The effort of preparing & collecting goods, creates the interest & curiosity which ends in purchasing them. Hence it is that our sales can never be completed at the termination of the Christmas Bazaar, but always a proportion, say a quarter of all received, remains to be disposed of at Fairs in the country towns. If we could collect £20.000 worth of goods I suppose we should dispose of £15.000 worth of them at the Grand Bazaar the sales always bear about the proportion to the amt rec'd.

We suppose when a rough estimate that we had this year between 6 & 7 thousand dollars worth of goods. (nearer 6 than 7 for we sent a liberal selection to Philadelphia)

About 15 hundred dollars worth remain on hand, to go in a few days to

Jan. 1847

New-Bedford, to aid in a fund
to be held there, & to such other pla-
ces as shall be found advisable.
The further particulars you will learn
from the Bugle Gazette, of which
another number was struck off
agreeably to a suggestion of Mr Pat-
ton via through Mr S. May.
I fear the form may not be so
attractive as a pamphlet would
have been, but it could be made
up in this way from the
columns of the Liberator, so as to
save the expense of type-setting.
I cannot sufficiently thank you
for the list of donors' names.
All the letters that we have this
year received from England Ireland
& Scotland intimate an intention
to aid us the next, & it is our inten-
tion to agitate at home for such
an effort as shall bring the
American contributions to a
level with the foreign ones, & if

we possibly can, to go as far beyond our British friends, as they have this year been in advance of us. I have therefore thought long seriously of an enquiry in one of your letters, as to the eligibility of holding a Bazaar in Bristol. You have had, ever since your contributions to ours commenced, all the trouble of holding one. and I am exhaustedly qualified to say, how much it must have been. I am truly able to appreciate your own & your father's devotion of your domestic & social faculties to the cause in the manner you have done. It does seem to me that it would be well, as the articles are exhausted in Bristol, to dispose of some of them there. The money

results from their sale, might be given to the operations of the League, sent to us with the remaining goods, or invested in such articles of British Manufacture as you & we should find advisable. In case you should decide upon this course, I will here say that the pictures, the Image-vase, the Mineral candlesticks (not the obelisks) & the Patenes, (such as Mr James sent) were the surest of sale this year. But I ought to add what Mrs Fallen has, I believe, already written to Miss Carpenter, that but little was left of the contents of your most generous Mammoth Box. The exquisite neatness & beauty of the whole, made the Bristol department a highly attractive one. The goods were entrusted to Mrs Fallen & to my sisters Lucia & Emma Weston; The for-

8

After taking that part of them which could not be classified with the book & drawing department I think I shall never be really satisfied, till you & your father visit this country at the time of the Bazaar one of these years, & see for yourselves, what I so vainly endeavour to tell you. How tempting a picture rises before me, as I seem to see you embarking at Liverpool with the great box, — landing with it on our shore, — being seized upon by your American friends & I calculate (as yankees say) to be among the most active, & to get possession, & to bring you to my house & keep you prisoner there, till all is ready & when the Bazaar is opened to let you fly into the Hall & take your position at the first

June 1847 9

Table, & listen to all the admiration, & Raw on all the Kingdoms of Unitarianism to purchase, & Mollify all the Pro-Slavery hearts the ministers, (which, it must be confessed, are already thawing under British & Bristol influence) & see all the queerness of this queer yankee nation: and last not least, see your friend Garrison again! does it not rise tantalizingly to your mind's eye?

I think the little verses & fragrant notices with which the articles were inscribed, helped their sale. "Fanny Kimball" sold at a good price - I am sorry that it has escaped my mind for what sum. I only recollect my impression of pleasure at the time, as she was

carried off in the arms of Charles Sumner, a distinguished young unitarian Lawyer here, (Barrister you call it in England) as a present to the little child of his friend Longfellow. The mention of his name reminds me to say, that he, most unfortunately fell, being tempted, into the professional, just where gapes an open American Market place, swallowing up so much that seems worthy of a better fate. He might have leaped in, Curtius like, & saved the republick in his measure: but he has entered in. His publishers in Philadelphia, I think, proposed

to get up for him an elegant
edition of his poems, expurgated
of the Anti-Slavery ones, to
suit the Southern market. In
evil hour he acceded to the proposi-
tion. The way of the aboli-
tionists is to speak of all these
transactions as wrongs done
to the Slave; & they will not
make Longfellow's case an
exception, though they were
tempted to do so, by the natural
satisfaction of thinking him
almost an abolitionist. I had
a conversation with him on
the subject. He claimed it as
his right to arrange his poems
as he chose. The Anti-Slavery
poems had been printed sep-

avidly several editions of them at the north, & why should not the others be printed as avidly at the south? It would have a bad effect to force our peculiar sentiments upon them as to this great & much vexed question. So, I explain, reason the clergyman, the Lawyer, the merchant, the manufacturer. So reasons the whole American people at the north, & because we have reasoned so & so acted, Slavery has been extended thro' them & perpetuated. He was very sensitive on the subject — and with much emotion that we had unwittingly touched the article, "Pegasus in Harness,"

Jan 1864

and that if the thing were
to do over again, he should do
it just the same manner.
He [illegible] excellent friends, but
he did not vote for the Bill
this year, & I suppose it was
because his good sense showed
him that he could not please
two such diametrical opposites as
the slaveholders & the abolition-
ists. Thus it is, that from yielding
to one demand, a man is weaken-
ed, so that he makes no objection
to the next. This fact has
strengthened in him by the
fact that his wife's father is in
intimate business connection with
the South, & has recently published
a pamphlet expressing his warm
allegiance to the existing order of

of sympathy for slaveholders rather than slaves,

72

things, & his Honor at the
Boston & change them.
In the appendix, Mr Appleton
(that is his name) quotes three
articles from the Liberty Bell,
against this slaveholding union,
and declares that such sentiments
are a sufficient reason for
standing aloof from any
movement sustained by per-
sons entertaining them. & the
consequence was that none of his friends ca
This may serve as an illus-
tration of the state of things here.
If we stand firm, these persons
will probably come round to a
better state of mind by next year.
If we yield, they will be no better
satisfied, but will claim more
& more concessions, till the
agitation of this question &

abolition cases, & all things assume the appearance of what they were previous to 1833. This is of course an absurd idea. As we cannot go back, we shall of course go on, till slavery becomes discreditable, & cheaper to slaveholders & forgetfulness of the suffering slaves become recognised as wrongs to humanity.

nections come to the Bazaar.

I must stop midway, because the box must be made up.

Most affectionately
yours W. W. Chapman

53 Summer St Boston U.S.